

News Briefs

Congratulations award winners

Congratulations to all BLAZE TEAM members who helped the 14th Flying Training Wing achieve the 2004 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Promotion testing

Enlisted personnel testing for promotion are reminded that the door to the testing room is closed promptly at 7:45 a.m. Airmen are to arrive at the personnel center, Building 926, Room 126, at least ten minutes before test time.

PFE study guide feedback

Air Force officials are soliciting immediate feedback on the content and format of the 2005 Promotion Fitness Exam study guides, as they are planning for the 2007 versions. Airmen are encouraged to e-mail comments to pfesg@randolph.af.mil.

Medical clinic announcements

Patients are reminded that the 14th Medical Group clinic and its ancillary services, such as the laboratory and pharmacy, may experience delays in seeing patients during the Operational Readiness Inspection May 16 through May 20. To make an appointment, call Ext. 2773 or visit www.tricareonline.com.

Dorm dinner postponed

The monthly dorm dinner is scheduled for May 26 at the community center. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500 or contact a first sergeant.

Inside



COMMENTARY 5  
Gen. Donald Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, introduces Operation Summer Survivor: Xtreme Challenge.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (06-03)	5.49 days	0.65 days	June 3	48th (05-09)	2 days	1.9 days	May 20	T-37	1,160	1,234	18,258
41st (06-02)	0 days	1.88 days	May 17	50th (05-09)	-0.02 days	2.68 days	May 20	T-38C	454	550	9,321
								T-1A	424	441	8,275

Graduation speaker: Col. Charles McGuirk, 505th Command and Control Wing commander, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Staff Sgt. William Barrow

CAFB forces abroad

Airman 1st Class Matthias Aufiero, deployed from the 14th Security Forces Squadron, keeps a keen eye on the sensor alarms at a deployed location in Southwest Asia. “Although I enjoy working the law enforcement side of the house at Columbus AFB, working as a tactical automated security system operator and entry controller here has helped me focus on the effective use of manpower, skill, and firepower as needed to accomplish the ‘Boots on the Ground’ mission,” he said. To learn more about deployed security forces and their responsibilities, see Page 9.

BRAC: Air Force provides information for affected military, civilians

Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The secretary of defense is expected to announce the proposed Base Realignment and Closure list during a press conference today.

Air Force officials said they understand the effect BRAC can have on servicemembers, retirees, employees and their families.

To assist people with vital BRAC information, the Air Force will provide

a toll-free number, (888) 473-6120, for military and civilian members affected by the BRAC list. Besides the toll-free phone number, the Air Force has an informative BRAC Web page at www.af.mil/brac.

“This number will be available starting today from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EDT) until further notice,” said Col. Thomas Fleming, Air Force BRAC response cell director. “We will have trained people from 10 different Air Force organizations to answer or assist with any questions people may have.”

Airmen can seek information through their chain of command. They may also contact the public affairs office at their nearest Air Force installation.

BRAC is the congressionally authorized process the Department of Defense uses to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support its forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business.

See BRAC, Page 2

Making the grade



Courtesy photo

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the May enlisted promotees. Pictured are: (front row) to airman: Lynnette McCarrier, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Stephano Picchietti, 14th Security Forces Squadron; to airman first class: Reed Ellett, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Jeffrey Obermeyer, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Curtis Rhodes, 14th Communications Squadron; Paul Smith, 14th CES; Robert White, 14th CES; to senior airman: Eddie Elbert, 14th SFS; (back row) to technical sergeant: Henry Stephens, 14th CES; to senior airman: Heath Niemet, 14th CES; Darnell Strausheim, 14th CES; Anthony Smith, 14th Flying Training Wing; to staff sergeant: Willis Griffith, 14th Medical Support Squadron; Lawrence Pitts, 14th Services Division; to master sergeant: Richard Jackson, 14th Mission Support Squadron; and Patanya Garrett, 14th MDOS. Not pictured are: to airman: Tommie Gonzales, 14th MDSS; to senior airman: James Redahan, 14th SFS; to staff sergeant: Corey Langford, 14th OSS; and Christopher McClendon, 14th SFS.

BRAC

(Continued from Page 1)

“People are our most valuable asset; and though BRAC is a careful and impartial analysis, people will be affected,” Colonel Fleming said. “We care about our people, and we want to keep our people informed and provide them the best possible information on the changes that will affect them.”

The Air Force Web page will have a breakdown of affected bases from the

BRAC list, said Jeff Whitted, Air Force News Service operations division chief.

“We will also have links to frequently asked questions, news articles, and DOD and Air Force information concerning BRAC,” he said. “As we receive new information, we will post it to this page.”

Local communities surrounding these installations will also be affected. Communities can address their concerns with the president’s commission at regional BRAC commission meetings or by contacting the commission at (703)

699-2950 for more information. Phone hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, Mondays through Fridays.

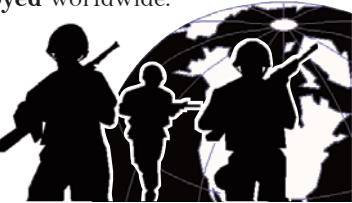
The BRAC process will take months to be finalized.

The secretary of defense’s BRAC recommendations are not final. The president’s BRAC commission will review the list for conformity with the office of the secretary of defense’s force structure plan and published selection criteria and report its findings and conclusions to the president by Sept. 8.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 28 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide.

Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



Mr. Rick Songer  
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

STAR BLAZER

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates Mr. Songer on his distinction as **Air Education and Training Command Civilian Fire Officer of the Year**, and wishes him luck in the Air Force-level competition.

SILVER WINGS

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh St. Suite 203  
Columbus AFB, MS 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Wilson  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson  
Public Affairs Chief

Tech. Sgt. Keith Houin  
NCOIC

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez  
Editor

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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## Congratulations CCAF graduates

Twenty BLAZE TEAM members were recognized for their academic achievements at a Community College of the Air Force graduation Monday at the Columbus Club. The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the most recent CCAF graduates:

**Senior Master Sgt. Marty Anderson** of the 14th Medical Group, Human Resource Management

**Master Sgt. William Anderson** of the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, Human Resource Management

**Tech. Sgt. Brian Bailey** of the 14th Mission Support Squadron, Allied Health Science

**Staff Sgt. Michele Cetto** of the 14th MSS, Human Resource Management

**Master Sgt. Curtis Chiles** of the 14th Medical Operations Squadron, Aerospace Physiology Instructor

**Master Sgt. Clarence Duff** of the 14th Security Forces Squadron, Criminal Justice

**Master Sgt. Kevin Hawks** of the 14th SFS, Electronic Systems Technology and Human Resource Management

**Tech. Sgt. Douglas June** of the 332nd RS, Mechanical and Electrical Technician

**Staff Sgt. Kevin Martens** of the 14th SFS, Criminal Justice

**Staff Sgt. Tammy McDonald** of the 14th Operations Support Squadron, Airport Resource Management

**Senior Airman Jonathan McQuaig** of the 14th MDOS, Aerospace Physiology Instructor

**Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller** of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, Fire Science

**Tech. Sgt. Kelvin Nobles** of the 332nd RS, Human Resource Management

**Staff Sgt. James Potts** of the 332nd RS, Human Resource Management

**Staff Sgt. Michael Poye** of the 14th Operations Group, Information Management

**Tech. Sgt. Philip Richardson** of the 332nd RS, Human Resource Management

**Master Sgt. Antoin Scott** of the 332nd RS, Human Resource Management

**Staff Sgt. Jason Treadwell** of the 14th SFS, Criminal Justice

**Staff Sgt. Erreca Weaver** of the 14th Comptroller Squadron, Financial Management

**Master Sgt. Lashon Webb** of the 14th MSS, Education and Training Management.

### DUI status

**“Don’t Drink and Drive”**

**Last DUI:** March 25, 2005

**Days since last DUI:** 49

**Unit:** 37th Flying Training Squadron

## Mobility bag test case begins

**Capt. David Small**  
U.S. Central Air Forces

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Airmen will be returning from their deployment a little lighter because of a test to pre-position mobility bags in theater, potentially saving millions of dollars. The test began Monday.

To make the deployable Air Force more agile and address concerns of people hand-carrying too many bags into the U.S. Central Command theater, Air Force installations and logistics officials approved the test.

The plan, proposed by U.S. Central Command Air Forces officials, boasts a savings of about \$5.1 million per air and space expeditionary force cycle, Air Force officials said. This savings stems from \$70 per bag of excess baggage and \$1,600 per seat for empty seats that cannot be filled because of the surplus luggage weight.

This idea has bounced around at least since 1998 when a supply manager from Operation Southern Watch suggested it; however, it could not be implemented until now, said Maj. Paulette Jordan, CENTAF chief of supply at Shaw AFB, S.C. She was part of the team that helped rejuvenate the idea.

This test calls for Airmen in AEFs 3, 4, 5 and 6 to turn in their mobility bags and chemical warfare equipment to theater materiel managers before redeploying. This equipment will be stored at the three expeditionary theater distribution centers located at primary hubs in Southwest Asia.

“If we go to full implementation, (incoming Airmen) will be able to go to these centers and receive whatever bags they need based on their location and the season,” Major Jordan said. “One of the things that the test will help us to



Master Sgt. Carolyn Gwathmey  
**Staff Sgt. Cameron Marshall (left) turns in his mobility gear to Tech. Sgt. Paul Roby at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia.**

work out will be the process to issue and control these assets, particularly during the rotation.”

The 5,000-square foot center is maintained by 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen at a forward-deployed location. It will be outfitted with four tiers, expanding its storage space to 200,000 square feet. The other two centers will be maintained by Airmen in the 376th and 386th AEWs. Deployed Airmen will be turning in their equipment as they pass through these hubs with a few exceptions.

Airmen will not turn in weapons, gas masks or individual body armor. There is a lack of storage space and there are security concerns for the weapons. Body armor purchased by major commands will be returned; however, armor issued in theater will stay in theater.

Airmen assigned to Pacific Air Forces, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard are not part of this test.

Battlefield Airmen, aircrew, security forces, Red Horse civil engineers and air control squadron Airmen also will not participate because they deploy with special equipment.

Airmen deploying to and from the 380th AEW and certain other units will travel with their equipment according to their reporting instructions.

If the test proves successful, the initiative will be expanded to other AEF cycles until one full cycle’s worth of equipment is pre-positioned. Until that time, Airmen should follow the reporting instructions.

What is a Career Job Reservation (CJR) and when do I need to apply for one?

**The purpose of the CJR program is to prevent surpluses and shortages in the career force. Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center controls first-term reenlistments by maintaining a career job requirement file for each Air Force Specialty Code. Airmen may apply for CJRs on the first duty day of the month during which they complete 35 months of their current enlistments (59 months for six-year enlistees), but no later than the last duty day of the month during which they complete 43 months of their current enlistments (67 months for six-year enlistees).**

*For more information, call Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher at Ext. 7009.*

## BLAZE TEAM: We’re ready for inspection!

**Col. Stephen Wilson**  
14th Flying Training Wing

We’ve been talking about it and preparing for months, and now the Operational Readiness Inspection is just about to begin. All the hard work, time and dedication I’ve seen every one of you put forth is about to pay off.

Every day, the BLAZE TEAM does an outstanding job building the world’s best warriors, leaders and professional military pilots. I am looking forward to the ORI as an opportunity to show how well we accomplish this critical mission for our nation’s defense.

Throughout the next week, we’ll be evaluated in



three major areas: how we accomplish our daily operational mission, how we respond to contingencies and our ability to provide wartime support. I am confident that we will excel in all three areas.

The BLAZE TEAM’s ability to accomplish our mission is second to none. We fly more sorties than any other base in the Air Force, training one third of the Air Force’s new aviators every year.

The operations group has already shown the inspector general how well they perform their duties by successfully completing 28 check rides last month ... great work!

Some of the best units in Air Education and Training Command and the Air Force support that mission, including our award-winning and command-leading security forces, fire department, air traffic control and medical group.

We’ve honed our readiness through a vigorous exer-

## Sexual assault victim shares experience, offers her help

A few months ago, I was asked to be part of a new program the Air Force was putting together to help individuals who have been sexually assaulted. I was taken aback for a moment and strong waves of emotions washed over me.

It had been a long time since I’d thought about it. In fact, I try to make every effort to avoid the subject ... you see, I am a victim of sexual assault.

At first I thought, “There is no way I can be a part of this team ... it would be much too hard for me.”

I have tried to put it behind me, to forget about it, but I’ve come to realize you never really can put it away and forget about it.

I still get the jitters ... like right now as I write this. When the phone rings and no one is on the other end I think, “Has he found me? Does he know it’s me? Where I’ve gone?” No, surely not.

Several years ago, I had been out with my fellow airmen drinking at the club when I decided that I needed to go home. It was very late as I started my way back to my dormitory. I had to stop for a bathroom break and there was a bathroom on the way, so I took advantage of the opportunity. That night changed a lot of things for me.

I didn’t know my attacker. Even though he threatened to stab me repeatedly, I was able to break free and escape before he got my pants all the way down and finished what he had come into the bathroom to do.

I tell you my story because so many years ago, my technical school commander

and the other individuals appointed over me really didn’t know what to say or what to do for me.

“Do you want to see a doctor?” was all they were able to get out. I was thousands of miles away from home and all by myself.

The investigation was extremely difficult. Being very young and never having experienced constant questioning by the Office of Special Investigations and security forces was a big deal and quite scary. Plus, I had to view a line up and experience a court-martial proceeding by myself.

I felt like I had no one to turn to or even talk to when I was all alone. I had no idea what agencies were available to me because I was new to the Air Force. I could have gone to see the chaplain or even life skills, but I didn’t know those options were there.

If I could help someone who has been a victim of sexual assault, I would have someone available for the victim to talk to and ask questions of.

The Victims Assistant Liaison program gives those individuals who have been victims of sexual assault a person they can reach out to if they have questions and don’t know where to go. Some people may need someone to go through the process with them and lend a hand or provide a shoulder to lean on.

I personally feel this program is a worthy cause. I know there are men and women out there who will need it, and I’m glad to be a part of it. I hope you never need me, but I’m here to help as your victims assistant liaison.

## Spiritual strength: A source of power to combat stress

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu**  
14th Flying Training Wing



As the Operational Readiness Inspection approaches,

everyone is revving their engines to full speed. Creating additional reports, fine-tuning presentations, reviewing checklists, ensuring complete training completion and more are added tasks to your present workload. We spend lots of energy to accomplish these things and they cause stress.

Let’s face it — life is not stress free; even more so in the Air Force! I recommend that now is the time for positive energy. Any internal or external negative energy will drain your system and your organization.

To combat this problem, commanders, supervisors and leaders have spent considerable amounts of energy to rectify these issues. Consequently, energies that could have contributed to good works are wasted!

Practically and traditionally, military leadership usually looks at obvious stress indicators, such as fatigue, accidents, unit cohesiveness and morale, to measure mission capability. This is merely a reaction to the issue of

cise program, including 11 exercises in the last six months! And we’ve done it all while supporting America’s Global War On Terrorism, with hundreds of members of the BLAZE TEAM on the front lines of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

We’ve put the last “coat of polish” on the 14th Flying Training Wing, and the base and the BLAZE TEAM are ready to shine. I want everyone to take a deep breath this weekend and meet the IG team next week with a positive attitude.

That positive attitude — the same one I see every day around the base — will be critical to our success. Work with the inspectors, learn from them and showcase the great things you do every day.

Let’s show the IG team what great people and programs we have here at Columbus AFB, and the results will speak for themselves.

We’re ready ... Let’s roll!

stress. We have to be more proactive about this problem.

The Air Force recognizes four dimensions of human wellness — physical, emotional, social and spiritual.

Our service recently emphasized physical fitness to strengthen its troops by promotion a “Fit to Fight” lifestyle. Any step taken to improve your physical fitness is a step taken in the right direction.

Each person is entitled to his or her emotions; but he or she is also responsible for keeping those emotions in check. Maintain emotional wellness by ensuring that those feelings or attitudes will not drag you down.

I believe in the power of networking for success. Each person has to rely on his or her support system, whether it be family, friends or both. The U.S. military has a long tradition of showing its appreciation for military family members with thankful praises and recognition at unit gatherings and retirement ceremonies. Every military member should remember to thank his or her family for their support and sacrifice, as well.

Commanders and supervisors should know their people, see their people and support their people through frequent visitation and performance recognition for their significant contribution to the Air Force mission.



# View from the Top Wingmen and the 101 Critical Days of Summer

**Gen. Donald Cook**  
AETC commander

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** — I recently received a letter from a concerned citizen about the safety of trainees in the armed forces. While I'm confident commanders and supervisors are taking care of our Airmen, the letter reminded me that the American people expect us to "get it right" when it comes to training and educating their sons and daughters.



Whether in basic military training, technical training, or developmental education, we are responsible for developing high-quality, expeditionary-minded, professional Airmen — and the wingman mindset is critical to accomplishing this objective. Indeed, a fundamental part of Developing Airmen is seizing every

opportunity to cultivate a wingman mentality in those we entrust to fulfill the Air Force mission. As summer approaches, we have another opportunity to hone our wingman skills. In the First Command, we're calling the 101 Critical Days of Summer, "Operation Summer Survivor: Xtreme Challenge." The challenge is to top last year's safety record — to go from one fatal mishap to none and to reduce our overall mishap rate by more than 50 percent. Our broader challenge, however, is to integrate the safety programs we typically associate with the 101 Critical Days into a comprehensive initiative to encourage the wingman mindset among the members of our command. When you think about it,

encouraging people to practice personal risk management, to buckle their seat-belts, or to wear protective equipment is all part of building a wingman culture. That's why AETC installations will conduct another Wingman Day during the last two weeks of May. Wingman Day will kick off Operation Summer Survivor because safety is an obvious part of overall wellness. Over the last five years, the Air Force has lost 131 Airmen during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, and we need to eliminate these tragedies once and for all. In addition to addressing such hazards as driving tired and mixing alcohol with water sports, we will also revisit the issues discussed during our last Wingman Day: We are all expeditionary Airmen. The personal stress imposed by the Global War on Terror continues to be profound. We can mitigate this stress by committing ourselves to the four dimensions of

human wellness. And as wingmen we are mutually responsible for preventing suicide and self-destructive behavior among our Airmen. Discuss these issues. Because as much as we'd like the suicide problem to go away, we still have work to do. Like preventing suicide, reinforcing personal and operational safety is a wingman's job. Our safety teams and helping agencies will provide commanders and supervisors with resources to conduct an effective Wingman Day — with an emphasis on small-group, face-to-face interaction among Airmen and their supervisors. But when it comes right down to it, we must all ensure our Airmen get the message: We are all Wingmen and we are all responsible for the well-being of our teammates. By internalizing this wingman mindset we will meet the Operation Summer Survivor challenge.

## Straight Talk Line

*The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential.*

*Written questions may be dropped off at the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the BlazeWeb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.*

## STRENGTH

(Continued from Page 4)

The Air Force Chaplain Service has joined the human wellness campaign with the promotion of "Spiritual Fitness." The chaplain service has held the Air Force Spiritual Fitness Convention every year since 2003 in an effort to bolster spiritual strength for the Air Force community. I chose the motto "Let your light shine" as the vision for Columbus AFB chapel community in our combat against stress. Stress is an inevitable part of life. It's your choice to deal with stress before it kills you is your choice. I thank you for staying on the positive course, and appreciate everyone who accepts this reality of life and utilizes all available means to combat stress. I pray daily for the success of our upcoming ORI and for everyone who's received additional taskings, to include deployments and additional duties. I treasure every individual who day in and day out performs his or her tasks resiliently. I thank God that no stress-related tragedies have been identified at Columbus AFB, and ask that you join me in a continuous effort to pray for the BLAZE TEAM.

## War in Iraq allows people to live free

**Maj. Gregory Reese**  
332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

**BALAD AB, Iraq** — If you follow the news, you realize many people in many nations continue to question why the United States invaded Iraq. I am sure, like me, many family members or friends back home support you, but question why our nation is still involved in Iraq when the headlines show military men and women dying daily. I will also admit that prior to being deployed here, I also privately wondered if the cost was worth it. The day I arrived here, the insurgents mortared us three times and an Army soldier and civilian were wounded, and I began to wonder even more about the cost to our nation.

As Americans, we tend to think in terms of ourselves and our nation. We grew up accustomed to freedom from fear and freedom to choose. Unfortunately, the Iraqi people have not had this advantage. Under Saddam Hussein and for a large part of modern history, the people of Iraq have been used and oppressed by their rulers. They did not have a government of and for the people. They often lived in fear of their government and realized if they tried to change things, they would likely be imprisoned or killed. You can still readily see signs of this oppression in the people just outside the fence. I certainly do not want to die in Iraq, but I also believe giving the young generation of Iraqis a chance to be free is worth some personal risk.

who reminded me of my own kids. These kids had a look of innocence and just wanted to play games. Then, looking at some of their parents, I saw people old beyond their years. People who had the look of someone used to submitting to oppression. That is when I realized this is not about fighting the insurgents, this is not about Saddam Hussein, or even about chemical weapons. For you and I, this is about giving these children a chance to grow up in a free society. This is about giving the next generation of Iraq a chance to choose their future, a chance for a young child to dream about going to college and actually being able to do it. I realize such sentiments are hard to stomach when the Alarm Red siren goes off one more time and you hear explosions that could be coming for you, but remember that change always comes with difficulty. Those who were in power — those who are threatened by freedom of choice — are fighting against us because democracy in Iraq threatens their hold on power. Outside the fence there is not a huge throng of insurgents waiting to kill us, but a lot of people who have been threatened and intimidated by a minority who is holding on to power with violence. Your service helps to ensure that the power of the thugs grows smaller and the power of the people of Iraq grows larger. I certainly do not want to die in Iraq, but I also believe giving the young generation of Iraqis a chance to be free is worth some personal risk.

# First-quarter award winners announced

## CGO of the Quarter

Capt. Edward Kim, 41st Flying Training Squadron, is CGO of the First Quarter for 2005. As an instructor pilot, he maintained a 100 percent student check ride pass rate and 100 percent of his students successfully completed T-37 training as well. Captain Kim managed the squadron budget of more than \$290,000 and ensured on-the-mark fiscal spending. He also spearheaded the final 41st Fighter Squadron reunion with 20 original 41st FS veterans in attendance. Captain Kim was also awarded a Foreign Area Officer scholarship for the Korean language program.



## Airman of the Quarter

The Airman of the 2005 First Quarter is Airman 1st Class Ryan Schneider, 14th Contracting Squadron. Airman Schneider managed two service contracts totaling \$590,000 with only six months of contracting experience and administered cellular phone and Blackberry service purchase orders totaling \$48,000. He finished his first set of career development courses in only four months and scored 90 percent on the exam. Airman Schneider also served as a mentor to the base youth by coaching a Youth Soccer League team.



## Category II Civilian of the Quarter

The First Quarter Category II Civilian for 2005 is Bruce Wyrick, 14th Operations Support Squadron. Mr. Wyrick validated maintenance contracts for more than 14,250 sorties with 100 percent accuracy. He organized 55 orientation flights and simulators for 150 people and coordinated wing aircraft for 23 airshows and fly-bys, promoting the link between aircrews and off-base agencies. Mr. Wyrick also audited previous data call maintenance information submitted to the Base Realignment and Closure Committee.



## SNCO of the Quarter

The Senior NCO of the First Quarter for 2005 is Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher, 14th Mission Support Squadron. Sergeant Fisher was supported in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. She led a 53-member services squadron responsible for the morale and welfare of more than 1,500 deployed troops. As the base career assistance advisor, Sergeant Fisher dedicated more than 20 hours of her off-duty time to visit shift workers and resolve tuition, assignment and promotion issues. She is also superintendent of the honor guard and active in a number of base organizations.



## Honor Guardsman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Manuel Avendano, 14th Flying Training Wing, is the Honor Guardsman of the First Quarter for 2005. Airman Avendano polished the base honor guard Web page with updated pictures general information, media and links. He was hand-picked to present the colors for a Tops In Blue event, which more than 1,600 people attended. Airman Avendano was promoted to senior airman below the zone, is the Dorm Council president and a wing staff agency physical training leader.



## Category III Civilian of the Quarter

Earl McDuffie, 14th Operations Support Squadron, is the First Quarter Category III Civilian for 2005. Mr. McDuffie coordinated crew schedules, appointments and leave requests with daily flying operations for more than 25 people. During a severe lightning storm, he directed and monitored the holding of 12 aircraft, avoiding delays and divers. Mr. McDuffie also maintains an unblemished safety record as a key contributor to the safe execution of more than 58,000 local area air traffic operations.



## NCO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Brandon Burden, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, is NCO of the 2005 First Quarter. Sergeant Burden was deployed 131 days in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as a security escort team chief for 250 military convoys through high-risk areas. Sergeant Burden also completed six semester hours toward his Community College of the Air Force Degree in Aerospace Physiology Technology with a 4.0 grade point average, and participated in an honor guard memorial for 150 unknown graves in Alabama and Mississippi.



## Category I Civilian of the Quarter

Regina Bowen, 48th Flying Training Squadron, is the 2005 First Quarter Category I Civilian. Ms. Bowen is a secretary for more than 200 squadron members. She is the primary cost center manager and responsible for tackling a new \$267,000 budget program. Ms. Bowen compiled 96 training reports for 48 newly-graduated mobility pilots, which served as vital products for follow-on training. She is also a trusted wing agent and ensured strict adherence to drug testing requirements of 45 selected personnel.



## Volunteer of the Quarter

Cindy Mikeal is the 2005 First Quarter Volunteer. Ms. Mikeal volunteered more than 25 hours as a youth sports coach. She stepped up to coach a basketball team for the 5- to 7-year-old age group when there were no volunteers for the position. She maintained an open line of communication with the players' parents and kept the children energized and motivated. Ms. Mikeal reported early to every basketball practice, game and meeting, and never missed an event. She also conducted parent meetings, created a parent snack schedule, created a personal league schedule for parents, and provided practice outlines and schedules as well.





# Defensor Fortis

Airmen protect base,  
resources,  
people



Top and bottom: Airmen of the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron guard the flightline perimeter at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Colette Bennett

## Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey 379th Air Expeditionary Wing

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Cops. They are everywhere — on the flightline, on the roadways, at the entry control points, in the search pits. They work the beat on base and beyond — and take their role supporting the war on terrorism seriously.

“The most important thing we must (do) is to remain focused,” said Master Sgt. Donovan Holdway, noncommissioned officer in charge of special security for the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. “If we lose focus while performing any part of our mission, the consequences can be extreme.”

Base defense is vital to ensuring the protection of people, equipment and resources at a forward-deployed location. Protecting it is a huge responsibility, but the young security forces Airmen are more than ready to meet the challenge, said Tech Sgt. Richard Barker, the squadron’s NCO in charge of resource protection.

As the military changes and evolves, much is expected of young Airmen early on — especially in security forces, he said. Not only do these Airmen enforce standards, but he said they ensure the safety and security of others. Sometimes it means responding at a moment’s notice to maintain the peace or to diffuse a dangerous situation.

“When you think about what goes into making a decision like that, you can get a real appreciation for what they are being asked to do,” Sergeant Barker said.

“(Sept. 11, 2001) changed the way we do business,” he said. “More is expected of everyone. The senior (leaders) plan the fight and how we take it to the enemy, but the Airmen and young NCOs are the ones who execute the plan and ensure we all go home at the end of our deployments.”

Sergeant Barker is no stranger to deployments. During his 17-year career, he has deployed seven times, and he said this is the safest he has ever felt.

“It’s a reflection of the wing and the stance (leaders) take on security and force protection ... still, the threat has kept me on my toes,” he said.

“Our enemy is not a conventional one, and is therefore harder to defend against,” Sergeant Barker said. “That creates a lot of new challenges for us, and that includes military bases (throughout Southwest Asia). Protecting our resources and people is our job.”

And it is a job Sergeant Barker said the young Airmen here are performing very well.

“One of the biggest things I like about the young troops in our career field today is their enthusiasm,” he said. “They have a lot of energy and are eager to do their part to make the mission happen. (These Airmen) are coming here and doing great things.”

## Bowl for the Stars & Strikes — Win prizes, cash

**Pam Wickham**  
14th Services Division

All summer long, customers at Strike Zone Bowling Center will get “punched.”

Patrons will receive punch cards for participating in bowling center programs as part of the Air Force Services-wide “Bowl for the Stars and Strikes” promotion, which gets rolling Sunday.

“The bowling center is the perfect place to cool off for some healthy, indoor fun with your family and friends,” said 1st Lt. Thanh Huyhn, acting bowling center manager. “The more people visit the bowling center, the greater their chances of winning some terrific prizes.”

Sponsored by Coca-Cola (no federal endorsement intended), Bowl for the Stars and Strikes offers participants the opportunity to earn rewards by collecting punches on three levels of punch cards — red, white and blue.

For every 10 punches, bowlers and non-bowlers alike will receive the corresponding reward for that level (while supplies last). Prizes include a bowling ball key-

chain, collectible patriotic beanie bear, 3-D liquid Air Force Bowling mouse pad and more. Additionally, every completed card becomes an entry for monthly prizes, and blue level cards become entries for a chance to win a \$500 cash grand prize.

Punches are awarded for every game bowled or large 32-ounce Coca-Cola fountain beverage purchased at the bowling center snack bar now through Aug. 15. Participants in Bowl for the Stars and Strikes will also receive a coupon for a free medium Coca-Cola beverage and two free games of bowling for every card completed.

No purchase is necessary to enter to win monthly and

grand prizes. For complete contest rules and entry information, visit the Strike Zone bowling center or call Ext. 2426.



Pam Wickham

**First Lt. Thanh Huyhn, bowling center manager, shows off some of the prizes for the Stars & Strikes summer promotion including a \$500 cash grand prize.**

## Services provides variety of leisure time activities

**Stained glass classes:** The arts and crafts center offers these night-time classes for \$30 per person. Cost includes all supplies. Dates and exact times of classes will be determined by the class participants. Call Ext. 7836.

Thursday has an Italian flair and Fridays offer a tri-continental selection of German, Asian and New England seafood. Call Ext. 2490.

**Bar bingo:** The enlisted lounge offers bingo games at 5:30 p.m. every Friday. Call Ext. 2490.

**Reduced prices for lunch buffets:** The Columbus Club offers a different buffet Tuesday through Friday. Cost is now \$5.95 for club members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Tuesday features Mexican cuisine, Wednesday is country-style cooking,

**Kids’ day out:** The youth center offers a kids’ day out from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Youth will visit Skate Zone, participate in arts and crafts and lunch will be provided.

Cost is \$5 for youth center members and \$10 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

**Scrapbooking:** All levels of scrapbookers are invited to participate in a workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the 14th Services Division complex. Cost is \$10 per person. To register or for more information, call the youth center at Ext. 2504 by 5 p.m. today.

**Crafts classes:** The arts and crafts center offers weekly classes for both adults and children. Upcoming adult classes include making a household wooden planter, mosaic flower pot and tulip frame. The youth classes feature a kaleidoscope and a travel tic-tac-toe game.

Adults can make a mirrored, wall-mounted candle holder in a home decor class May 26. This 15-inch, square candle holder fits four votive candles. Stop by the arts and crafts center to see a display of the upcoming projects. Call Ext. 7836.

**Ultimate journey camp:** Ages 6 to 12 are invited to attend this youth center camp from 4 to 5 p.m. May 23. Campers will experience an environmental education by embarking on a journey into the world of plants and animals. The camp is free for youth center members and \$10 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

**Youth trip to McWane Center:** The youth center offers this trip to the McWane Center in Birmingham, Ala., May 25. Cost is

\$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. The center features interactive adventures including hands-on science fun with ScienceQuest; an IMAX dome theater; Just Mice Size, where children younger than 6 years old learn, build and express themselves creatively; World of Water, with creatures from around the world; and the HighCycle, which gives youth the thrill of a tightrope ride without the danger. Call Ext. 2504.

**Casino dinner trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Silver Star Casino in Philadelphia, Miss. May 20. Cost is \$25 for club members and \$28 for nonmembers, and includes transportation, \$15 in coins and a free buffet dinner. Call Ext. 7861.

**Veterinary clinic hours:** The veterinary clinic is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays. During this time, patrons may pick-up or drop off records and purchase monthly pet supplies.

**Summer vacations to Disney World, Universal Studios:** The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip to Orlando, Fla., June 7 through June 11. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people, \$215 each for three people and \$190 each for four people with the same lodging accommodations. Costs include four nights lodging, transportation and an Orlando shuttle service. Reduced price ticket packages are available at ITT. Call Ext. 7861.



### Fix it your way

**Janie Pounders and Carole Knie fill their plates with their favorite meat and vegetables during Mongolian barbecue at the Columbus Club. The next Mongolian barbecue is from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. The event will feature guest chef Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Vu, 14th Flying Training Wing head chaplain.**



Movies

Today  
“Sin City”

(R, sustained strong stylized violence, nudity and sexual content including dialogue, 124 min.)  
Starring: Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke.

Saturday  
“Beauty Shop”

(PG-13, sexual material, language and brief drug references, 105 min.)  
Starring: Queen Latifah and Alicia Silverstone.

All movies are shown at 7 p.m. at the base theater, unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit [www.cafb services.com](http://www.cafb.services.com).

Base Notes

Family Support Center

Student spouse group

New and casual student spouses are invited to join the Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club Student Spouse Group volleyball event at 10 a.m. Thursday at Freedom Park. The group provides spouses the opportunity to build friendships and resources. To sign up or for more information, call Vanessa Hedlund at 352-1159.

Quarters non-availability

The upcoming University Olympics Aug. 7 through Aug. 25 will result in non-availability of quarters for official travel to Izmir, Turkey, and surrounding areas. It is highly recommended that travelers make lodging arrangements well in advance by calling the reservations assistance office at DSN 675-3366.

Commissioning opportunity

Enlisted Airman younger than 31 years old and with one to six years of service in the Air Force are eligible to apply for the Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC program.

SOAR is a wing commander-endorsed program, and gives squadron and group commanders the opportunity to nominate Airmen they feel would make outstanding Air Force officers. Candidates are selected at the major command level, and Air Education and Training Command has seven slots available for Fiscal Year 2005.

Applications should be reviewed by the education center staff no later than Sept. 15; individuals that require waivers must have their packages reviewed no later than July 15. For more information, call Larry Brooks at Ext. 2562 or visit [www.afaots.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedCommissioning/FY05soar.htm](http://www.afaots.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedCommissioning/FY05soar.htm).

Air Force Aid Society

The AFAS offers 24-hour emergency assistance. Possible aid includes interest-free loans, grants, car repairs and emergency travel. Call the family support center for more information.

Hug-A-Bear program

The family support center has partnered with the Mississippi State Troopers to sponsor the Hug-A-Bear program.

Now through May 23, BLAZE TEAM members are invited to drop off small, clean, used or new stuffed animals at the family support center.

The troopers will keep the toys in police cars to comfort children whose families are involved in accidents, traffic stops and domestic calls.

Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and government applications is from 1 to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Teens on the move

A workshop for teenagers about what to expect at a new installation, school and community is at 6 p.m. May 27 at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Chapel Schedule

Vacation Bible School

The chapel is currently holding registration for Columbus AFB’s Vacation Bible School program, themed “Jerusalem Market Place.” A registration booth will also be available from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the base exchange.

The program is for ages 4 through 12 and will run from 9 a.m. to noon June 6 through June 10 at the base chapel. A bus will pick up children in base housing and at the youth center. Youth entering the seventh grade for the 2005-2006 school year can volunteer

with approval. To register, volunteer or for more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

Protestant announcements

There will be no religious education during May, but all classes will resume in June. Throughout June, there will be a one-room school house. All children enrolled in Sunday school will meet in the religious education wing at the chapel.

The protestant community will offer 100 days of combined worship services from May 29 to Sept. 11. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

Catholic

Sunday:  
9:15 a.m. — Mass  
10:45 a.m. — CCD at Bldg. 1052\*  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Protestant

Sunday:  
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary worship service at the community center  
10:45 a.m. — Combined worship service in the chapel sanctuary  
For information about other services, call the base chapel at Ext. 2500.

Congratulations reenlistees

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the most recent Air Force reenlistees:

Master Sgt. Patanya Garrett, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Shannon Giroir, 14th SFS; Staff Sgt. Armida Gonzales, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Airman Glocel Pace, 14th

Operations Group; Staff Sgt. Melvin Pace, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Senior Airman Hyun Park, 14th Services Division; Senior Airman Jennifer Simmons, 14th SFS; Master Sgt. Kerry Slater, 14th Communications Squadron; and Tech. Sgt. Henry Stephens, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron.

of Parkinson Hall. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will participate in enrichment activities. Barbara Coloroso, internationally recognized and critically acclaimed author, will speak to the parents in Nissan Auditorium Parkinson Hall. Free pizza will be available for students and a free lunch buffet will be available for parents. Reservations are required by Tuesday. For more information, call 241-6101.

**Garden Tours of Columbus:** The Columbus Council of Garden Clubs will present Garden Tours at five local homes from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. June 3 through June 5. Lunch will be served in the Lee Home. Tickets are \$15per person including lunch, and are available through June 4 by calling 328-6305 or 328-3970.

**Charity Poker Run on The River:** The Columbus

Marina for the Fourth Annual Charity Poker Run is May 27 at the marina on Wilkis-Wise Road in Columbus. Pre-registration fee is \$50; same-day registration is \$60. Proceeds will benefit the YMCA Camp Henry Pratt. The Mardi Gras-themed event is limited to 208 participants. People are encouraged to register early. For more information, call 327-8450.

**JuneTeenth celebration:** A JuneTeenth Festival celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation is June 17 and June 18 at Sim Scott Park located at 902 20th Street North in downtown Columbus. The event is free and open to the public. Food, music, softball games, and activities for both children and senior citizens will be featured. For more information call 328-2491 or 329-5871.

**For more event listings, visit [www.columbus-ms.org](http://www.columbus-ms.org).**

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees. Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue. Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one)	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
Print advertisement _____					
_____					
_____					
_____					
Name _____					
Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____ (in case we need more information)					

**Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:**  
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐  
What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).



# Special Olympics bring joy to Yokota volunteers

**Master Sgt. Val Gempis**  
Air Force Print News

**YOKOTA AB, Japan** — More than 700 American and Japanese volunteers helped make the 26th Annual Kanto Plain Special Olympics a rousing success Saturday and Sunday, officials said.

But for some of the volunteers, seeing the event succeed is not the only reason they came.

“I’m so happy to see the joy on the athlete’s faces,” said Tech. Sgt. Melissa Popejoy, a cargo ramp specialist from the 730th Air Mobility Squadron. “They remind me of my brother who also participates in these events back in the states.”

Sergeant Popejoy has volunteered at Special Olympics the past five years. She said she does so because it helps her feel close to her 26-year-old brother who has seizures and learning disabilities as a result of spinal meningitis.

Even though her brother is thousands of miles away, she said she feels like she is helping him by volunteering.

Officials said Special Olympics has opened up a world where athletes can achieve goals and experience competition. It has changed the lives of people looking for inspiration or wanting to inspire. Worldwide, the events have touched the lives of millions, including

athletes, family members, volunteers, coaches and donors.

“I also take my two kids to help,” Sergeant Popejoy said. “We’ve been huggers, greeters, scorekeepers and statisticians. They clap, cheer and really enjoy themselves here. Hopefully, Special Olympics will have a positive impact on their lives.”

This year, the air mobility squadron Airmen made and handed out hundreds of medals and ribbons to participants.

“I love coming here,” said 1st Lt. Kenneth Raszinski of the 374th Services Division and event director. “This event brings Americans and Japanese closer together.”

The lieutenant said he began planning for the event in October.

The biggest challenge was coordinating with 20 off-base schools, he said.

This year, more than 400 athletes participated in 42 sporting events like basketball, softball throw, bowling, and track and field.

“It’s amazing to see how well the base and the local community worked together for the athletes here,” Lieutenant Raszinski said. “Seeing them smile makes you feel proud.”

Master Sgt. James Percy, a first-time volunteer from the 374th Medical Group’s bio-environmental flight, said he did not know what to expect. He was



Master Sgt. Val Gempis

**A crowd gathers during a softball throw event at the 26th Annual Kanto Plain Special Olympics at Yokota AB, Japan. More than 400 athletes from 20 Japanese schools competed in the two-day event Saturday and Sunday.**

quickly amazed at how good and competitive the athletes were.

“It’s incredible to see how fast they can run,” Sergeant Percy said. “They compete hard. They have so much heart.”

He said the best part of the event was when the athletes shook his hand and gave him a hug.

“You get nothing but good feelings here,” the sergeant said. “I should have been doing this a long time ago.”

## Muscle Mania 2005



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodríguez

**Weightlifters like Lance Ferguson, 50th Flying Training Squadron, are invited to participate in Muscle Mania Saturday at the fitness and sports center. The weightlifting competition is open to all male and female BLAZE TEAM members. Categories will be based on weight class, and weigh-ins will begin at 9 a.m. To register, call Ext. 2772.**

## Shorts

### Lady BLAZE softball

Females interested in playing intramural softball for the Lady BLAZE team can call Shera Ferrell at 434-6991, or Stephanie Clark at 574-7287 for more information.

### No-tap bowling

A no-tap bowling tournament begins at 6 p.m. May 20 at the bowling center. The entry fee is \$15 — \$5 for bowling and \$10 will contribute to the prize fund. For more information, call the bowling center at Ext. 2426.

### Three-club golf

This 18-stroke play tournament begins at 8 a.m. May 21 at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Players are allowed only three

clubs of their choice. To sign up, call the golf pro shop at Ext. 7932.

### Soccer balls for Iraq

The YMCA Board of Directors and Amory Kiwanis Club are currently collecting new or used soccer balls to send to Iraq. Some troops have discovered the children there enjoy soccer. Donations may be dropped off at the fitness and sports center. Call Ext. 2772.

### Fun run

An Armed Forces Day 10K fun run begins at 8 a.m. May 21 in front of the fitness and sports center. Children are invited to participate as well and will receive free tee shirts as long as supplies last. Call Ext. 2772.